

Community Wellness and Prevention Injury Prevention Program

Facts on Injuries in Washington State:

- Injuries are the leading cause of death for Washington citizens age 1-44.
- Injuries kill approximately 3,000 Washington residents and result in over 36,000 hospitalizations per year.
- Nearly 65% of deaths among children age 1-19 are due to injuries.
- Most injuries are preventable.



For more information, contact:

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Injuries are the leading cause of death and disability for the people of Washington, ages 1-44, and remain a significant cause of death and disability throughout the life span. Injuries kill more Americans ages 1-44 than all diseases combined. Injuries do not occur at random. Injuries occur in highly predictable patterns, with recognizable risk factors, among identifiable populations.

Based on data from the *Children's Safety Network Economics and Data Analysis Resource Center*, it costs an average of \$771,700 in medical and lost productivity for each injury death in Washington State in 2000 dollars (based on 1998 incidence).

The Injury Prevention Program provides leadership through:

- providing data and special reports to identify priority issues statewide and locally and making injury data widely available
- technical assistance to help local agencies identify and focus on priority issues, using effective strategies
- obtaining external funding to address specific injury issues at the local level
- leveraging local, state and federal resources for maximum results
- providing consultation and technical expertise to other agencies and coalitions
- supplying model programs and materials to local agencies
- involving constituents and partners
- identifying and responding to emerging injury issues
- actively participating in DOH initiatives

Funding

Funding sources include: state general fund; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Preventive Health Block Grant; Maternal and Child Health Block Grant; Washington State Traffic Safety Commission; and pass-through funding from National SAFE KIDS to local coalitions.

CWP Injury Prevention Program – Current Activities Unintentional Injury Prevention

SAFE KIDS

The Injury Prevention Program is the lead agency for the Washington State SAFE KIDS Coalition. The coalition is a statewide network of injury prevention advocates that focus on reducing unintentional injuries in children from birth to 14 years of age. The state coalition works with 16 local coalitions to reduce unintentional injuries in children by educating adults and children, providing safety devices to families in need, conducting research and data collection, and passing and strengthening laws to empower families and communities to protect children.

Infant and Child Product Safety Campaign

In collaboration with other community partners, DOH has designed and is implementing a statewide public education campaign intended to raise awareness about recalled children's products. The campaign seeks to raise awareness among parents, caregivers, and others about the risks associated with recalled products and to motivate people to check for recalled products in their homes and businesses.

Fire Injury Prevention Grant

The Washington State Fire Safe Families project is a collaborative effort of DOH and local fire districts throughout the state that focus on increasing fire injury prevention efforts. The program works to prevent residential fires in low-income family and senior homes. The local fire districts work within the community to install smoke alarms and provide general fire prevention education which consists of escape planning, care and maintenance of the alarm and instructions on how to exit a fire. As of March 2004, a total of 15 potential lives have been saved as a result of this program.

Preventing Falls Among Older Adults

There are more people age 65 and older in Washington hospitalized for injuries due to falls than the number of people, of all ages combined, hospitalized due to motor vehicle crashes. Further, as our population ages, the number of senior falls is growing. The Injury Prevention Program developed a comprehensive report on senior falls, which is available on the program website. Based on the report, the program received a 3-year, \$900,000 CDC grant to evaluate the effectiveness of a multi-faceted senior falls prevention intervention in two communities (Pierce and Spokane Counties). The intervention is currently underway.

Intentional Injury Prevention

Youth Suicide Prevention

The Injury Prevention Program administers \$500,000/biennium for youth suicide prevention efforts statewide. Activities are carried out through a contract and are focused on youth-directed media campaigns, gatekeeper training, and community mobilization. Partnerships with local and state organizations continue to advance these efforts and build a statewide network for suicide prevention. The Washington State Youth Suicide Prevention Program is recognized nationally and internationally and is often used as a template by other states.

Sexual Assault Prevention

Through an interagency agreement with the Office of Crime Victims Advocacy in the Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development, the Injury Prevention Program supports local and statewide efforts in the area of sexual assault prevention. The primary goal of this program is to engage communities so that they address community norms that foster sexual violence and work toward preventing sexual assault. A great deal of work is done through the Washington Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs and through local sexual assault programs and other community based organizations. Funding to support these efforts come from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Family Violence Prevention

Coordination of Department of Health Family Violence Prevention efforts occurs through an internal workgroup with representatives from across DOH divisions and programs. The Injury Prevention Program is the lead convener of the group. Work by this group enhances the infrastructure that supports individual program efforts in family violence prevention by identifying common needs and gaps and developing plans for meeting priorities for more effective and informed prevention efforts.

Safe Storage of Firearms

The Injury Prevention Program strives to prevent injuries and deaths caused by loaded and unlocked firearms. To do this work, strategies to promote the safe storage of firearms are promoted by working with local health departments, Harborview Injury Prevention and Research Center, Children's Regional Medical Center and other state partners. The key message of the campaign is to have gun owners lock all firearms in a lock box or safe after removing the ammunition. Ammunition should be stored in a separate location, also locked up. More information can be obtained by going to the website (www.lokitup.org) or by calling the toll-free information line: 1-877-LOKITUP (1-877-565-4887).

Enhanced Capacity for Analysis and Dissemination of Injury Data

The Injury Prevention Program has a 4-year grant from CDC to increase program capacity to analyze and report on high priority injury issues in Washington, with the goal of improving the value of injury data for public health purposes. Currently underway is a report on childhood injuries.

People interested in obtaining injury information or technical assistance are encouraged to visit the Program's website at <http://www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/injury>